

Inventor: Brian Perry

PATENT

Application No.: 09/872,817; Art Unit 1743; Examiner: Quan, E.S.

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COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 1. (currently amended) A vacuum manifold for interchangeably
2 accommodating a multi-well plate and one or a plurality of individual chromatography
3 columns each terminating in a male portions ~~portion~~ of one or a plurality of a male-
4 female-type air-tight manually operable engageable connectors ~~connector~~ whose male
5 and female portions are interlocking, said vacuum manifold comprising:
6 a plate perforated with a plurality of through-passages, each through-
7 passage having embedded therein a female portion of said male-female-type air-
8 tight manually operable connector;
9 a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped to mate
10 with one of said female portions to form a substantially airtight closure of said
11 through-passage; and
12 a receptacle with an open top and a port for drawing a partial vacuum in
13 said receptacle, said receptacle containing an internal shoulder encircling said
14 open top and sized to receive said plate.

1 2. (cancelled)

1 3. (currently amended) An adapter for a vacuum manifold, which
2 manifold is designed to produce vacuum-induced flow through all wells of a multi-well
3 laboratory plate, said adapter rendering said vacuum manifold usable for producing
4 vacuum-induced flow through one or a plurality of individual chromatography columns
5 each terminating in a male portions ~~portion~~ of one or a plurality of a male-female-type
6 air-tight manually operable engageable connectors ~~connector~~ whose male and female
7 portions are interlocking, said adapter comprising:
8 a plate whose lateral dimensions are substantially the same as those of said
9 multi-well laboratory plate, said plate having a plurality of through-passages, each
10 through-passage having embedded therein a female portion of said male-female-
11 type air-tight manually operable connector; and

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a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped to mate

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with one of said female portions embedded in said plate to form a substantially

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airtight closure of said through-passage.